

How can I impress on you why I feel that cross-ownership of media in an outlet is a terrible move?

Let me share my experience during the last major earthquake in San Francisco. By telephone I kept hearing from people who were worried because the city was in flames, the freeways all collapsing, in short: complete destruction and terror. They got this information from television coverage.

I was in San Francisco, however, and found that the situation was just the opposite: people helping others, sharing information and resources, corner stores passing out free ice cream rather than letting it melt. The next day I visited the few sites of damage.

Television coverage, as is usual in these emergencies, was highly destructive, continually repeating images that could only make the viewer more insecure, less informed and certainly less capable of action, if needed.

To risk the chance of print media coming under the ownership of the same type of infotainment-meisters would be a true disservice. This would ultimately benefit only national and international advertisers, and be a severe detriment to local businesses and those individuals still capable of thinking for themselves.

And therefore unpatriotic in the extreme.

I urge you to resist the Murdochs and others who would influence with their bottomless pockets.